

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A method for producing a monoclonal antibody specific for an antigen, the method comprising:

- (a) immunizing a transgenic mouse overexpressing CD19, and having antibody-producing cells with disrupted peripheral tolerance, with an antigen to permit said antibody-producing cells to produce antibodies to the antigen;
- (b) removing at least a portion of said antibody-producing cells from the mouse;
- (c) forming a hybridoma by fusing one of the antibody-producing cells with an immortalizing cell wherein the hybridoma is capable of producing a monoclonal antibody to the antigen;
- (d) propagating the hybridoma; and
- (e) harvesting the monoclonal antibodies produced by the hybridoma, the monoclonal antibodies having a diverse repertoire of V_H and V_L rearrangements.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said monoclonal antibodies comprise antibodies having an affinity constant of greater than 1×10^5 liters per mole for said antigen.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said monoclonal antibodies produced by the hybridoma are characterized by the presence of two (2) or fewer somatic mutations in a V_H region.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A method for producing a monoclonal antibody specific for an antigen, the method comprising:

- (a) immunizing a transgenic mouse overexpressing CD19, and having antibody-producing cells with disrupted peripheral tolerance, with an

antigen to permit said antibody-producing cells to produce antibodies to the antigen, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of an autoantigen and a highly conserved antigen;

- (b) removing at least a portion of said antibody-producing cells from the mouse;
- (c) forming a hybridoma by fusing one of the antibody-producing cells with an immortalizing cell wherein the hybridoma is capable of producing a monoclonal antibody to the antigen;
- (d) propagating the hybridoma; and
- (e) harvesting the monoclonal antibodies produced by the hybridoma.